

# Red Tail Flyer

Volume 2, Issue 38

[www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf](http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf)

September 24, 2004

## Army medics hand hospital reigns to Air Force

Historic transfer  
between services  
unprecedented

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

Air Force medics officially took over the reigns of Balad's hospital Monday from Army medics in a transfer of authority ceremony.

The 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group assumed control of the base hospital, formerly known as the 31st Combat Support Hospital, which provides all emergency medical needs for any service members in the area of responsibility.

"I am greatly privileged to be here at this moment in history where an Army medical unit figuratively hands over the front door keys to an impressive field hospital to their Air Force medical colleagues," said Col. Gregory Wickern, 332nd EMDG commander, who is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "Thank you for what you have done and what you now leave in our care."

The 31st CSH ran the base hospital since deploying in January. The Army medics have played a crucial role in providing care during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I take pride in the performance of this hospital in the most



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

**Col. Gregory Wickern, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander, addresses attendees at the historic transfer of authority Monday between Army and Air Force medics. The 332nd EMDG is now in charge of Balad's hospital.**

intense combat casualty care environment since the Vietnam war," said Army Col. Stephen Hetz, outgoing 31st CSH commander. "History will show the Soldiers of the 31st CSH have given the world's finest care in the history of warfare.

"To my Air Force colleagues," the colonel continued, "we leave in your capable hands the mission of being the gateway for our sick and wounded Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who put their lives at risk everyday for freedom."

Although relatively new to

Air Force medicine, the 332nd EMDG is breaking ground as the largest deployed Air Force medical unit since the Vietnam conflict.

"Men and women of the 31st CSH Balad, you've set the bar high, so high in fact that some might wonder if we're prepared for the challenge," Colonel Wickern said. "My answer to that concern is simple, HOOAAH!"

Air Force medics have been working hand-in-hand with Army medics the past two weeks in preparation of the

transfer. However, roughly 30 Army medics will continue on in support of the hospital, along with 20 Australian personnel making this a true coalition effort.

"This mission goes on whether we're coming in or going out," said Army Brig. Gen. James Reynolds, 2nd Medical Brigade commander, who was the transfer of authority reviewing officer. "But I'm expecting a smooth transition and I know (the Air Force) has already picked up the ball and is running with it."

# Chief stresses team, involvement, history

Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs  
332nd AEW command chief

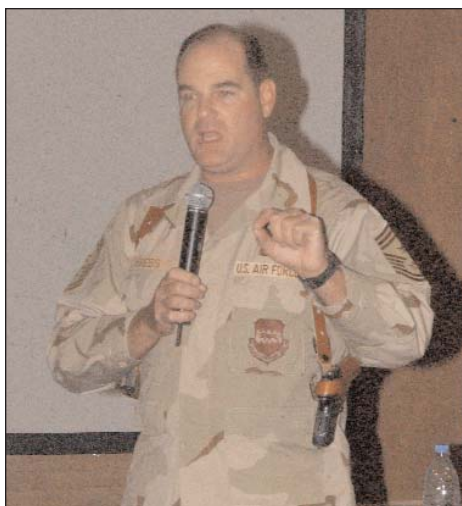
Well, I've been here three weeks now and I am amazed at how our people are "rocking and rolling" soon after the AEF 9/10 and 1/2 swap-out.

Just goes to show how versatile we in the Air Force are. We have to be. Our mission here is critical as briefed to you in Right Start. We all have to have our heads on straight and do the mission to the very best of our ability.

We've got just about every Air Force speciality represented in one shape or form here in the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing to include our warrior Airmen-Soldiers.

Remember the saying, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." It applies to each and every one of us here on Balad. I'm sure most of you have already realized that by now. We've got to support each other to get the mission done.

But don't stop there, this tour offers a great opportunity to grow professionally as well. I encourage each one of you to take advantage of some of the great organizations we have here just for you. I'm talking about the Panther Airman's Advisory Council, Red Tail 5/6 Council and Top 3. These councils



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, briefs attendees at Right Start Wednesday.**

are engaged with issues across the base, whether it's dealing with the dining facilities, recreation and fitness areas, Tuskegee Town living area, Base Exchange, or just plain information crossflow from one person to another. We have a group for you and I encourage you to get involved.

Let's also not forget about studying your Career Development Courses for skill level

upgrade, the Promotion Fitness Exam and Skills Knowledge Test for promotion opportunities once you return to your home base and of course our professional military education courses by correspondence. This is a great opportunity to get ahead.

As most of you already know, we have the proud unit designation from the historical 332d Fighter Group Tuskegee Airmen. Our motto states, "The Legend Continues." I ask that you keep in mind this proud tradition in everything you do. Keeping the perspective of our heritage and our important mission of today should fuel your initiative.

If it doesn't quite do that for you, think of 9/11 and the picture we've all seen of the fireman handing the flag to the military Airman, Soldier, Sailor and Marine saying the phrase, "I'll take it from here." Our mission is such that we don't EVER hand that flag back to our firemen. Think about that.

I am proud to be a member of the Balad team, your team. Strive for the goal of making Balad a better place and yourself a better Airman than when you first arrived. If you do, I can assure you you'll feel that sense of accomplishment when you leave which will be unmatched by any feelings of accomplishment you've had in your past.

So let's roll!

## Airmen gather to celebrate Air Force birthday

57-year-old service honored with party

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
332nd AEW/PA

Happy birthday Air Force!

Members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing gathered together Saturday at the Panther Pavilion to pay tribute to their 57-year-old service.

"This is an historic day in our history," said Col. Blair E. Hansen, 332nd AEW commander, "and it's important we take time to reflect and celebrate."

Airmen sang happy birthday, ate cake and reflected on what their service, the youngest in the Department of Defense, has



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

**Airman 1st Class Angela Sanchez, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group, takes a photo of the birthday cake as Menson Holloway and Airman 1st Class Caleb Dennis, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, look on.**

accomplished in its history.

"It's a good time to reflect because if we don't know where

we came from, we don't know where we're going," said Chief Master Sgt. Aphrodite Kafka,

332nd Expeditionary Support Group superintendent.

The 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron organized the party and their commander couldn't hold back his feelings on this special day.

"When I think about all this organization has done for our nation," said Maj. Fernando Martinez. "I feel a lot of pride."

The youngest Airman in the house, 19-year-old Airman 1st Class Ralph Mendoza, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, led the group in signing happy birthday.

"At first I was very nervous," Airman Mendoza said. "But then everyone started to cheer me on and that gave me confidence."



# A tale of two pilots

50 years after WWII, two men find race is no longer a barrier

Howard Wilkinson

*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

The two 8-year-old boys are squeezed together shoulder-to-shoulder in a third-grade class picture taken more than 70 years ago in front of North Avondale School.

They didn't know each other's names and never played together, because then, black children and white children did not mix.

As young adults in World War II, they flew together over Europe, one piloting a B-17 bomber, the other flying fighter escort in a P-51 with the Tuskegee Airmen.

They never met on the ground, because then, the military was segregated.

More than 50 years later, a chance meeting of two retired salesmen at a reunion of the Tuskegee Airmen in Cincinnati led them to review their parallel lives and discover their shared history.

The men, now in their early 80s, often speak to students — from grade school to college — and tell their stories in words and pictures.

John Leahr kicks off with his adventures as a one of the Tuskegee Airmen, a legendary group of black pilots who protected bombers in the air from German attack during World War II.

When he introduces Herbert Heilbrun, the two men always hug. It is always, Mr. Heilbrun said, "an electric moment."

"Some of these kids have never seen two men hug each other, much less a black man and a white man," Mr. Heilbrun said.

They recount a tale even the two men who lived it have to shake themselves now and then to believe really happened.

They tell how two grade-school classmates ended up side-by-side again in the skies over Europe — a young Mr. Heilbrun as a bomber pilot and Mr. Leahr flying a P-51 Red Tail fighter.

As officers in a segregated military, Mr. Leahr explains, their planes landed and "we went to our barracks and they went to theirs."



Enquirer photo

**John Leahr (left) and Herb Heilbrun stand in front of a painting of a P-51 Mustang Red Tail fighter.**

In 1997, Mr. Heilbrun read a newspaper article about a reunion of the Tuskegee Airmen. He decided to go downtown from his Sycamore Township home to the hotel where the black airmen were staying.

There, he met Mr. Leahr of Kennedy Heights — like Mr. Heilbrun, a retired salesman — and gave him a hug.

"I'd been wanting to hug one of those guys for 50 years," Mr. Heilbrun said. "You don't know how many times they saved my tail."

And Mr. Leahr, who felt for many years that the nation he had served had paid him back with prejudice and discrimination, had been waiting just as long for one of those white bomber pilots to come along.

"All I wanted was for someone to say, 'Thanks,'" Mr. Leahr said.

Both men had their old mission logs; they compared notes and found that Mr. Leahr had flown at least twice with Mr. Heilbrun — once on Dec. 16, 1944, on a bombing raid on a Czech oil refinery and the next day to strike an oil refinery inside Germany.

A friendship was born — 50-odd years after the bonds were forged in war.

"The guys flying the B-17s, we also looked for the Tuskegee people," Mr. Heilbrun said last week, sitting in the living room of Mr. Leahr's home.

"We could always spot them by their red

tails," Mr. Heilbrun said. "It was a good feeling when you saw the Tuskegees at your wing. They were good."

So good were the black airmen that they flew 1,578 missions over Europe and never lost a single U.S. bomber they were escorting.

The bomber pilots, Mr. Leahr said, "were unbelievable. They'd bring these big old things in at 18,000 feet or so, usually with the sky just full of flak, and get it done."

Since the two men met, students all over the Tristate have been hearing their story.

Both men say their lives have changed since they met; both believe they have changed the lives of the countless children who have heard their story.

"I know I have changed," said Mr. Leahr. "I had to cure myself of some feelings I had against white folks."

Joining a multiracial church and then meeting Mr. Heilbrun and learning how grateful the white pilot was "made me a different man," Mr. Leahr said.

In the schools, Mr. Heilbrun said, children will often start cheering when they are shown the 1929 class photo. He believes the kids know instinctively that the racism and segregation that kept the two men apart for so long can be overcome.

"We are brothers," Mr. Heilbrun said. "Always have been. Always will be."



# PREDATORS



(Top) An RQ-1 Predator taxis in after a sortie during sunset on Balad Air Base, Iraq, recently. The RQ-1 is a medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle. It is used as a Joint Forces air component commander-owned theater asset for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition in support of the joint force commander. (Above) An RQ-1 Predator heads down the flightline for a sortie around the area of responsibility. (Right) Airman 1st Class Robert Kaarlela, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, cleans and inspects an RQ-1 Predator after one of its sorties.





# AIRMAN GOES GREEN TO AID OIF MEDICAL MISSION

Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes

332nd AEW/PA

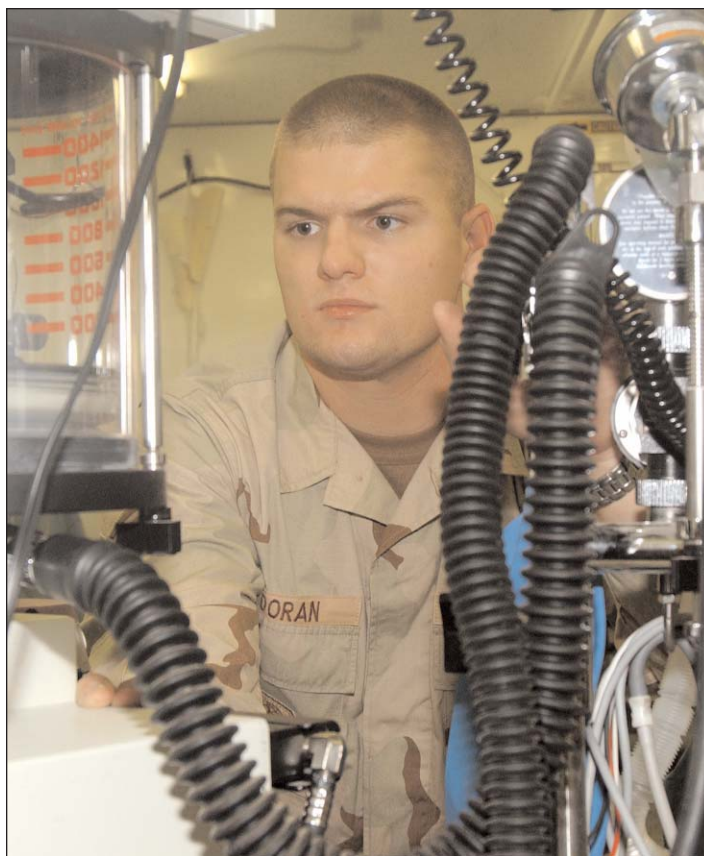
KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — When Airman 1st Class Gary Doran graduated from the Department of Defense biomedical equipment technician's course in 2002 and moved to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., he thought his time at the joint-service school would be his last experience working with Soldiers for a long time. In fact, he didn't know if he'd ever work with Soldiers again.

But he was wrong, and in this case, being wrong was a good thing, according to Airman Doran, who has tacked on another stripe since graduating from technical school and is now deployed to Southwest Asia as a member of the Army's 354th Medical Logistics Company.

"I was a nervous and a little excited when I found out I'd be assigned to an Army unit," said Airman Doran during a stop here Sept. 15.

He and Army Staff Sgt. Karl Faber flew to Kirkuk Sept. 13 to repair biomedical equipment in the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron. Sergeant Faber is a U.S. Army reservist from Dallas, also assigned to the 354th. He's been in the region for more than eight months and is anticipating his return to his wife and three sons in northern Texas after completing his one-year tour.

While Airman Doran may be as green in Southwest Asia as Sergeant Faber is experienced — he arrived in the region Sept. 10 — his trip to Kirkuk is only the first of many he expects to make during his four-month Operation Iraqi Freedom tour of



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes

**Senior Airman Gary Doran tests the oxygen flow on a mobile anesthesia machine for the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Airman Doran is a forward-deployed biomedical equipment technician temporarily assigned to the Army's 354th Medical Logistics Company in Southwest Asia.**

duty.

Unfortunately, he'll be making those trips without Sergeant Faber. The sergeant is scheduled to spend the next few months in Tikrit, Iraq, while Airman Doran will return to the 354th and team up with other Soldiers for more trips to medical facilities throughout Southwest Asia.

There's no lack of experienced travelers in the 354th, so Airman Doran has no doubt he'll be in good hands. The unit includes 13 Army and two Air Force biomedical technicians who travel the region, so much

in fact, that they've become known as the "Road Dogs." The 15-person team is responsible for maintaining equipment medics need to keep troops in the region healthy, and they travel wherever they're needed to complete that mission.

But it's a mission the Road Dogs can't complete alone, according to Army Lt. Col. Thomas Slade, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Southwest Asia. The Center is home to the 354th and is also responsible for the medical supply line that keeps facilities throughout the region

stocked with vital medical supplies. The Air Force also plays a role in that part of the mission.

"Every rotation we get a couple of medical maintenance and medical supply folks from the Air Force," the colonel explained. "The (Air Force) has been real good about it, which helps us interface because our two supply systems are different."

Colonel Slade said the Airmen's impact on the center's ability to complete its mission has been significant.

"The folks (the Air Force) has provided here have been very technically competent," he said. "They are really high-quality folks; I just wish we could keep them longer."

Airman Doran appreciates the colonel's compliment, but staying longer than his scheduled four-month tour is something he's hoping won't happen. He knows this deployment is a great opportunity, but he's already looking forward to returning home to his family — his wife and 15-month-old son — in Illinois.

Until then, he plans to proudly serve his country beside his Army counterparts, and he's optimistic that his tour will give him a wealth of opportunities some Airmen may never get. While some may get the feeling they're "sitting on the sidelines" and watching OIF unfold in Stars and Stripes and on cable news channels, Airman Doran said he's glad to have a chance to see it firsthand.

"I was really excited to find out I'd be able to travel with the Army," he said. "Some have to sit (at one base) while they're over here, but traveling helps me be 'in the game.'"

## Defense briefs —

### Hurlburt Field aircraft, workers, return

HURLBURT FIELD Fla. — More than 30 aircraft safely returned here Sunday after evacuating to escape the path of Hurricane Ivan. Meanwhile, recovery team members continued their efforts to bring the base back up to operational status.

While recovery team members were busy whipping the base into shape, all servicemembers and mission-essential Department of Defense civilians also returned Sunday and focused their combined efforts on recovery operations.

### Chiefs commit to plan to end hostilities

BAGHDAD, Iraq — More than ten al Thawra clan chiefs met Monday with a Baghdad City Council member to discuss an agreement to cease hostilities in eastern Baghdad.

Kareem Al Bakhatti met to discuss an agreement between tribal leaders and the city council. The twelve-point agreement calls for the end of hostilities and the turn-in of weapons. Previously, Muqtada's Militia agreed to turn-in their heavy weapons and disband, but there is no evidence they have complied.

### Single white female



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

**Country music star Chely Wright performs for members of Balad Air Base, Iraq, Saturday at the Sustainer Theater. Wright made five stops providing entertainment for deployed troops throughout the area of responsibility from Sept. 13 to Wednesday.**

# Most of Iraq under local control by year's end

Jim Garamone

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20, 2004 — If the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces continues apace, then most of the country will be under local control by the end of the year, Pentagon officials said today.

Army Lt. Gen. Walter Sharp, director of strategic plans on the Joint Staff, said that is the conclusion reached by Multinational Force Iraq commander Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

He said the northern part of the country — including the areas around Mosul and Kirkuk — and the southern parts of the country — from Basra to Umm Qasr — are the main areas already controlled locally, he said. These areas have a good security situation, are under the control of local governments, are moving along in reconstruction and are making progress in economic recovery, he added.

Sharp gave a rundown of how the training and equipping of the Iraqi security forces is going. He said Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, who commands the Iraqi security force training organization, worked together to decide the needs of the Iraqi government over the long run. Sharp said this bumped up the number of police needed from 90,000 to 135,000, the number of border guards from 16,000 to 32,000 and the number of battalions in the Iraqi National Guard, formerly the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, from 45 to 65.

The multinational force and the Iraqis are working in full partnership, Sharp stressed, and they decided that in the Interior Ministry the Iraqi Police Service has to be the first priority. There

are currently 84,950 Iraqis in the police force, with 38,921 of them having been through training.

Training for the police consists of an eight-week course for those with no experience, or a three-week course for those with previous law enforcement experience. Then the officers go to the streets and work with experienced multinational force officials for continued “on-the-job training.”

Sharp said the equipment is flowing into Iraq now for the police. When the force reaches its 135,000-man goal, it will require 213,185 weapons. There are 94,120 on hand. It will require 22,395 vehicles, with 5,985 currently on hand. The force will require 67,565 communications devices; there are 13,586 now. It will require 135,000 sets of body armor; there are almost 47,000 on hand.

Defense officials said the problems with contracts that plagued the effort earlier this year have been solved, and as Iraqis are trained they will receive the equipment they need.

A total of \$3.4 billion has been allocated to the training and equipping effort. This does not include the \$1.8 billion being considered for reprogramming to security from other accounts.

Sharp said that recruiting for the security forces is not a problem, in spite of terrorists' targeting of the police. This year, 715 Iraqi police have been killed in the line of duty. “Iraqis are answering Prime Minister Allawi's call that security is the responsibility of Iraqis, and they are standing up to the test,” Sharp said.

He said the highest levels of the Defense Department are monitoring the training and equipping efforts. “This is nothing new,” he said. “We have been pressing this from the very beginning.”





## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked public health questions at Balad Air Base. Submit questions to [public.health@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:public.health@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil).

**Q** : I've started to notice that when I wake up in the morning, my legs and arms are covered in little itchy welts. What are these welts, where are they coming from, and what can I do to prevent myself from getting these welts in the first place? Are these welts medically significant?

**A** : Chances are a mosquito bit you while you were sleeping. Mosquitoes can leave dozens of welts on exposed skin. However, sand flies, which can spread diseases such as Leishmaniasis and Sand Fly fever, bite without leaving any mark. You don't even realize that you've been bitten.

To become less of a target to sand flies and mosquitoes that may be infected with disease, minimize their opportunity to bite exposed skin.

Prevention tips include:

1. Sleeping under permethrin treated and properly hung bed nets.
2. Coating exposed skin with a skin repellent containing DEET before going to sleep (avoid the areas around the eyes and mouth).
3. Wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants if you're going to be outside for several hours between dusk and dawn.
4. Keep the temperature inside your tents fairly cool (you can always use a blanket if it's too cold for you).

The welts that result from mosquito bites are generally itchy and very annoying. If the welts don't go away and begin oozing with a discharge, or if they are not gone after five days and are painful, then it's time to report to the 332nd EMEDS Medical Clinic.

Remember, mosquitoes and sand flies can transmit potentially life threatening diseases such as malaria, Sand fly fever and Leishmaniasis. And take your anti-malarial (chloroquine) medication weekly; every Monday.

If you have a medical question about insect bites call the 332nd EMEDS Medical Clinic at 458-1242. Questions about preventing insect bites should be directed to the 332nd EMEDS Preventive Medicine at 458-1036 or 1038.

## Meet your neighbor



### Staff Sgt. Randolph Ellis

Home station: Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Unit: 332nd AEW/CCEA

Family: Mother in Virginia, two sisters and nephew in Atlanta.

Hobbies: Sports, reading, among other things.

How do I contribute to the mission? Provide quality control for all correspondence going to the wing commander as well provide work-group manager support for the wing staff.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment?

Meeting a bunch of new interesting people as well as working with the wing staff. Everyone shows great teamwork.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? My car, my friends and the little things taken for granted that we don't have here.

## GET NEWS ONLINE!

**332nd Air Expeditionary Wing News Service**

This 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing News Service is an authorized publication for members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

**332nd Air Expeditionary Wing News Service** is a compilation of the daily news and information of four Air Force bases in Iraq that comprise the 332nd AEW: Kirkuk Air Base, Balad Air Base, Baghdad International Airport, and Tallil Air Base. The 332nd AEW, and all facilities the reconstruction of Iraq through local and civil operations and maintenance in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and other United States Central Command contingency plans.

**Red Tail Flyer**

**BLAP Sentinel**

**Tallil Times**

**In the News:**

- **Reaching out**  
Tallil operation delivers supplies, appreciation, understanding
- **Kirkuk's Summer Olympics**

Visit: <http://www.afnews.af.mil/kirkuk>

### T-Town Chapel Schedule

#### Sundays:

Protestant Religious Education, 8 a.m.  
Protestant Worship, 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
Catholic Mass, 10:30 a.m.  
LDS Sacrament meeting, 7 p.m.  
LDS S.S., 8 p.m.

#### Mondays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesdays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.  
Catholic Discussion Group, 8 p.m.

#### Wednesdays:

Catholic Mass, 11 a.m.  
Purpose Driven Life, 8 p.m.

#### Thursday:

LDS Study Group, 7 p.m.

#### Friday:

Catholic Mass, 5:30 p.m.  
Women's Fellowship, 7 p.m.

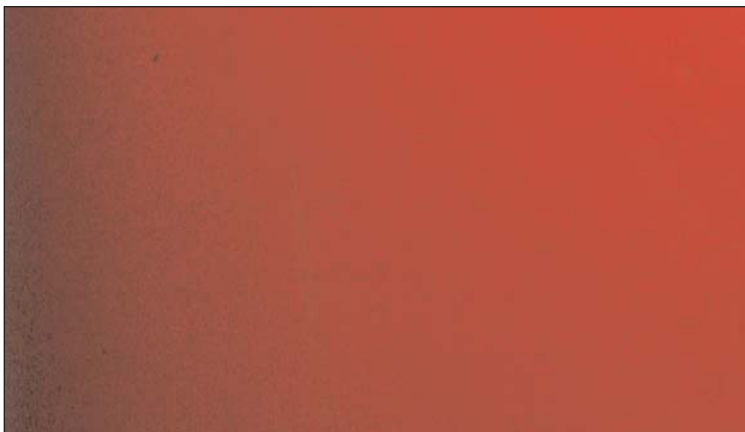
#### Saturday:

Catholic Reconciliation/Confession, 12:15-12:30 p.m., or appointment  
Catholic Mass, 12:30 p.m.  
Protestant Communion, 7 p.m.

#### Daily:

Band of Brothers (Men's Fellowship), 8:30 p.m.  
Christian Prayer, 9 p.m.

### Know what this is?



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Each week, the *Red Tail Flyer* staff will take a photo from around Balad. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil) with identify This! in the subject block. The first person who sends in the correct answer wins a prize and will get their name printed in this publication. Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Amanda Knotts, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, for identifying last week's closeup of blinds.



# Sustainer Movie Schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today  
3 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse  
6 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse  
9 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse

Saturday  
3 p.m. - Harold & Kumar  
6 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse  
9 p.m. - I, Robot

Sunday  
3 p.m. - Resident

Evil Apocalypse  
6 p.m. - I, Robot  
9 p.m. - The Bourne Supremacy

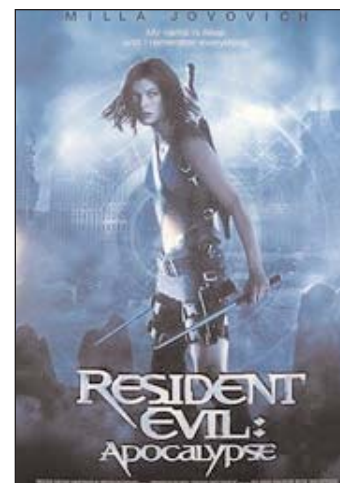
Monday  
3 p.m. - I, Robot  
6 p.m. - Catwoman  
9 p.m. - Harold & Kumar

Tuesday  
3 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse  
6 p.m. - Harold & Kumar

9 p.m. - I, Robot

Wednesday  
3 p.m. - I, Robot  
6 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse  
9 p.m. - Harold & Kumar

Thursday  
3 p.m. - I, Robot  
6 p.m. - Resident  
Evil Apocalypse  
9 p.m. - Harold & Kumar



### 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Blair Hansen  
Wing Commander  
Maj. Adriane Craig  
Public Affairs Chief  
Master Sgt. Dave Reagan  
Public Affairs Superintendent  
Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes  
Public Affairs NCOIC  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
Red Tail Flyer Editor

The *Red Tail Flyer* is published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

This unfunded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *Red Tail Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided

by the public affairs staff of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 458-1149, or by e-mail at: [redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil) or [332aew.pa@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:332aew.pa@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil).

All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

**The deadline for all editorial submissions is 5 p.m. the Tuesday prior to the date of publication.**